

Appl. No.: 10/756,588
Amdt. Dated: 04/27/2007
Off. Act. Dated: 01/22/2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-63 (canceled)

64. (original): A method for treatment of the prostate gland, comprising:
inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate gland;
placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the rectum and the prostate gland;
inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate gland and the rectal wall;
initiating and conducting treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and
deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

65. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the rectal wall and the surface of prostate gland during the treatment of the prostate gland.

66. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the surface of the inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

67. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:

monitoring the temperature of a fluid within said inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

68. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
inflating or circulating a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.

69. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.

70. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
inflating or circulating a thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.

71. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim ~~64~~ 70, further comprising:
regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.

72. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
inflating or circulating a fluid through said catheter assembly that is below the normal body temperature during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy;
said treatment comprising heating the prostate gland.

73. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall and form an acoustic barrier to protect rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and

initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

74. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:
inflating said inflatable member with an acoustically transmissible material to allow for diagnostic imaging;
replacing said acoustically transmissible material with an acoustically blocking material to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall; and form an acoustic barrier to protect the rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and
initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

75. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein pressure within said catheter assembly remains constant during the replacement of said gas with said liquid.

76. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

77. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said liquid replacing said gas is higher than the temperature of the body.

78. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, wherein the insertion and placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group consisting essentially of CT, fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging and X-ray.

79. (currently amended): A method for treatment of a diseased tissue site, comprising:
inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of a diseased tissue site;

placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly at an edge between the target tissue site and a sensitive healthy tissue or non-targeted site;

inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the target tissue and non-targeted tissue to physically displace the target tissue from the non-targeted tissue;

initiating and conducting treatment of the target tissue once the inflatable member is inflated; and

deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

80. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the sensitive tissues during the treatment of the target tissue.

81. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:
monitoring the temperature of the inflatable member during the treatment of the target tissue.

82. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:
cycling a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue by thermotherapy.

83. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising:
regulating at least one of the temperature, pressure and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue.

84. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the target tissue from the sensitive tissue and form an acoustic barrier;

initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue; and

replacing said gas within said inflatable member and said catheter assembly with a liquid after the conclusion of the ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue.

85. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:
regulating the pressure of said gas within said catheter assembly and said inflatable member.

86. (original): A method as recited in claim 84, wherein the temperature of said liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

87. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, wherein the insertion and placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group consisting essentially of CT fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging.

88. (original): A method for radiation treatment of the prostate gland, comprising:

inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate gland;

placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the rectum and the prostate gland;

inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate gland and the rectal wall;

initiating and conducting radiation treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and

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deploying said inflatable member and said catheter assembly for the duration of the implantation.

89. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising:
inflating said inflatable member with material that modifies radiation dose distribution.

90. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:
sensing the exposure of said catheter assembly to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

91. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:
sensing the exposure of tissues surrounding the prostate gland to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

92. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:
repositioning tissues that are in close proximity to the prostate gland prior to initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

Claims 93-98: (cancelled).